

and going back to an isolationist and to a hostile path, what could they do, maybe not today or tomorrow but a few years from now with the material that they might produce along with their well-known capacity to produce missiles? Who else might wind up with it? So it's a very serious question.

And all I can tell you is that I have been impressed by the gravity with which the other members of the United Nations Security Council, including Russia and China, have approached it. I recognize it is a more difficult question for China and for Russia than for the United States and for Britain and for France. It also matters a lot to Japan and to South Korea. I think we all have a common desire to see North Korea return to the former path. And I believe that in the end when we move to the Security Council discussions, we will come out with a policy that will show resolve and that will do that. I just don't think we can walk away from this. And so, I am hopeful, but I realize it is a difficult and a challenging issue.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. We apologize, but time is running out, and we have a certain schedule we have to go by. And so, all we can do is thank you and say goodbye.

The only thing I do wish to add on my personal behalf is that in looking to the international scenario, I am very glad to be able to say that the opinion of our government is that we feel very close to the positions expressed by the United States of America.

We spoke about Partnership For Peace. We spoke about the need to open the European Union to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. And we have also wished for participation of Russia within the Partnership For Peace agreement. And we look to this country and its development with great interest, in full awareness of the important role that Russia will play in the future, for the maintenance of international relations. Of course, both of our countries are determined, insofar as possible, to provide support and help to undertake the economic and political reform of this great state and country.

I think in that in this forum I can confirm to President Clinton and the rest of his staff the feeling that we are very close, we appre-

ciate you, and we very deeply thank you for being here with us.

The best of luck to you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 59th news conference began at 4:46 p.m. at the Palazzo Chigi. In his remarks, the President referred to Hans Blix, Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency. Prime Minister Berlusconi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the People of Rome

June 2, 1994

Mayor Rutelli, Mrs. Rutelli, Prime Minister Berlusconi and Mrs. Berlusconi, to the citizens of Rome, for Hillary and for me, this is an historic moment. At this site of ancient glory, we say to you on behalf of all of the people of the United States, greetings.

It is humbling to stand here. Romulus walked on this ground. Michelangelo designed this magnificent place. Today we celebrate something worthy of their greatness, the towering friendship between the United States and Italy.

Among the Americans I brought here with me today is a distinguished member of my Cabinet, the watchful guardian of our Government's budget, and one of America's greatest sons of Italy, my friend, Leon Panetta. Well, I know that Washington is not Rome, that dollars are not lire. But when the budget is made, taxpayers everywhere need someone in the Government like Leon Panetta who is paid to say, *basta*—enough. [Laughter]

Because Leon Panetta represents the best of the Italian-American partnership, and because he has such a good sense of humor, and because I am deeply in his debt as an American citizen, I have invited him to translate a part of my remarks here today. And when he is through, I want the citizens of Rome to give him a grade on how well he did. [Laughter] Mr. Panetta.

I am delighted to be in Rome, and I look forward to returning to Italy to visit Naples next month. There is so much of Italy in America—art, music, philosophy, and most

important, the strength and wisdom of so many of your sons and daughters.

That bond of blood and spirit between our people is the heart and soul of our special relationship. America and Italy are more than mere partners. We are now and forever will be *alleati, amici, una famiglia*.

So, Leon, *grazie*. Thank you for your friendship and for teaching me a few words of Italian. [*Laughter*] Now, all of his ancestors will rest in peace forever. All of his ancestors will rest in peace.

I have come to Europe to recall its cruelest war and to help secure its lasting peace. I am honored to begin travels here in the Eternal City on the anniversary of your republic. A half-century ago, my Nation joined a great crusade to restore liberty on this continent. But no moment was prouder than 50 years ago this week when we joined with you and others to return Rome to its people, and its people to freedom.

We are still told stories about that great day, church bells ringing out a song of celebration, children climbing onto the tanks of the liberators. One brave member of the Italian Resistance said, "We cried with happiness, letting ourselves realize for the first time how scared we had been."

To honor, we must remember. Therefore, this week, as the sons and daughters of democracy, we must resolve never to forget such hallowed words as Anzio, Nettuno, Salerno, Normandy. These names speak of the sacrifices of our parents and the freedom of their children and grandchildren.

Now, for 50 years our people have stood together as Italy has worked a modern miracle. You have transformed Italy into one of the world's great economies. You have helped to build NATO, history's greatest military alliance. And you have stood firm against Soviet expansion.

America is grateful for Italy's vital role in our partnership, in your hosting NATO air operations at Aviano and in the Adriatic, in your working to build the European Union, in your investment in the continent's new democracies.

The end of the cold war is permitting all of us to do the work of renewal within our nations, to rebuild our economies, to rebuild our sense of community and common pur-

pose, to reform our politics. We must do this. Cicero said, "Merely to possess virtue as you would art is not enough unless you apply it." I believe Italy will pursue its democratic destiny with virtue and grace, and as you pursue that destiny, America will stand with you and with Europe.

For 50 years we have stood together to help build peace and prosperity in Western Europe. Now let us expand those blessings across a broader Europe. So, to all the Italians here present, and to my fellow Americans here present, to all the citizens of other nations in this hallowed place, let us hope that, 50 years from now, the world will say of us, the children of freedom and democracy were the builders of lasting peace.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:18 p.m. in the Piazza del Campidoglio. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Francesco Rutelli of Rome and his wife Barbara Palombelli, and Veronica Lario, wife of Prime Minister Berlusconi. A portion of the President's remarks was translated into Italian by Leon Panetta.

Text of Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Prime Minister Berlusconi of Italy

June 2, 1994

Mr. Prime Minister, Camilo Cavour, the first prime minister of a unified Italy, once claimed to have discovered "the art of fooling diplomats." He said, "I speak the truth, and they never believe me." Mr. Prime Minister, I hope you will believe me when I tell you it is a joy for us to begin our commemorative journey among the wonderful people of your country.

This week we honor all those who reclaimed Europe's freedom half a century ago. In the time since, Italy has reclaimed her proud democratic heritage and become one of the world's most economically advanced nations.

Now, as winds of change blow across our world, the people of Italy, like those of America, are laboring in the vineyards of democratic reform and economic renewal. As our people have been joined by kinship and fellowship in the past, so they will be joined in the work ahead.